



REMARKS

Applicants have elected the Group II claims (nos. 72 and 73) with traverse and without prejudice to the filing of one or more continuing applications.

Applicants have amended the paragraph added to the application by the Preliminary Amendment (filed with the application) to identify the patent that issued based on U.S. Patent Application No. 09/446259 (i.e., U. S. Patent No. 6,727,102), the parent of the present application.

Consideration of all of the art cited in the initial Information Disclosure Statement (filed with the application) and in the six supplemental Information Disclosure Statements (mailed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on June 15, 2004, June 21, 2004, November 8, 2005, May 24, 2006, August 23, 2006, and August 30, 2006) and return of all of the PTO-1449 forms to evidence such consideration are respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the restriction requirement and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on December 20, 2006
(Date of Deposit)

Stephen P. Gilbert
Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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